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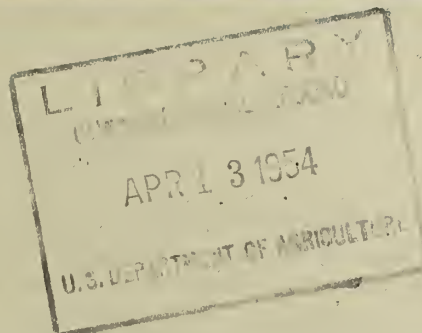
IDEAS

about 4-H Clubs and YMW

Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture



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No. 3

Washington 25, D. C.
November 2, 1953

For your information
and appropriate action

Dear Coworker:

EXTENSION CONFERENCE ON WORK WITH YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

If yours was one of the 30 States represented at the Allerton Park (Ill.) National Conference on Extension Work With Young Men and Women, October 4-8, you will certainly want to arrange for a complete personal report about it. The conference summary and report is now being processed, and 5 copies will be sent to each State Extension Service sometime in November.

About 65 persons attended, including 5 directors of Extension, 5 representatives of the national farm organizations, and most of the State extension staff members directly responsible for development of extension work with young men and women. The report and policy recommendations now go to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy for final consideration and action. The Subcommittee on Extension Work With Young Men and Women planned and conducted the conference with assistance from a similar committee in this office.

Most significant among results of the conference are:

1. Better understanding of the members' needs and situations of young men and women. (Charts and tabulations of census data, by States, were presented. These are available in limited quantities for your use. One set is being sent to each State).
2. Significant progress has been made in serving YMW since the Jackson's Mill conference of February 1949.
3. A variety of successful educational programs have now been tested. Others were proposed for development.
4. Progress was made toward better understanding of objectives, procedures, and relationships with farm organizations and other groups concerned. Emphasis was placed on the need for Extension to help young people take their place in adult life and affairs of the community.

5. The place of educational group activity received much discussion. The several States vary with regard to policy and practice on this point. It was felt that Extension should not encourage organization of groups for the sake of organizing. At the same time it was recognized that meetings and group planning are an essential method in educational work.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY SALUTE TO FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

The year 1953 marks the 25th anniversary of Future Farmers of America. In many respects work with high school boys engaged in the formal study of agriculture is a companion program to extension work. There is every reason for vocational agriculture teachers and extension workers to cooperate in greater service to people.

At a luncheon meeting last June with Extension and United States Office of Education representatives we "saluted" this silver anniversary. On this occasion there were recalled the many areas of common interest in our work.

We highly recommend such a meeting and plans for frequent future ones in every State and county.

NOMINATIONS FOR FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

Nominations for Freedoms Foundation recognitions must meet the deadline date of November 11. Last year, awards were made to 4-H Clubs of Barrington, Ill., and Pratt, Kans., and to an individual member of the Pratt Club for her public address. You probably know of many 4-H Club programs and of individual achievements that are worthy of nomination.

Additional nomination forms are available from this office. Contact C. C. Lang.

RECOGNITION FOR FIRST YEAR LEADERS

The Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work, at its June meeting, asked our office to canvass the States to find what type of official recognition, if any, is given to volunteer local leaders at the conclusion of their first year. You may use the enclosed sheet to indicate what your State policy is in this regard and whether, or not, you feel there should be some national recognition similar to the Clover Awards. Please send along any samples of certificates or other recognition.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Progress has been made in working out with the Izaak Walton League of America the plans for a national conference regarding youth activities in conservation. Some highlights of the present plans are:

- In addition to the 4-H Clubs, four national youth groups are cooperating--Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, F.F.A.
- Primary purpose of the conference will be sharing ideas and exploring ways for greater conservation effort through youth groups.
- A proposed conference will be held in Chicago next March in connection with the annual meeting of the league.
- Each of the five organizations is to be equally represented numerically (12 to 18 each) and geographically. Delegates are to be selected in these two ways:
 - a. One per State, at a meeting of a governor's committee.
 - b. At large, by the organizations themselves. The number in this category will be determined after the governors' committees have named their nominees.
- All expenses of the young people to attend the Chicago conference will be defrayed by the league. A State leader, county worker, and local leader (or their counterpart) from each organization and outstanding conservation authorities from the various fields will be named to participate. This looks like a natural for 4-H.

You will be getting further details from the league, from our office, and from your governor's committee if one has been named (about 40 States will have one). (Address your correspondence to George Foster.)

REPORT FROM WARREN SCHMIDT

Enclosed with this issue is a brief summary of Warren's principal impressions of the youth programs he observed while visiting Europe in behalf of IFYE this past summer. Time has not permitted his preparing a full report of his observations; therefore he limits his comments to some general reactions and to two of the major differences he noted between their programs and ours. We hope that he will be able to follow up this introduction with additional reports in future issues of "IDEAS."

RECENT MEETINGS OF TWO OF THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

- (1) The 4-H Entomology Committee, meeting in Chicago, September 29 and 30, centered attention on:

- (a) Analysis of the entomology program, as now operating.
- (b) Changes recommended by the States and by committee members.

A slight expansion of the committee was recommended.

- (2) The 4-H Farm and Home Electric Committee meeting, on October 1 and 2, based its discussions on the findings from a recent questionnaire, summarizing the present status of the farm and home electric program and the needs for further development. This committee had the satisfaction of 100-percent response of the States to the questionnaire. (Thanks, folks!). Bob Scott has been requested by the committee to print the summary of the questionnaire so you can all study it.

Reports of these two committees will be among those considered by the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work at its meeting, November 27 and 28.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL FILM DISCUSSIONS

The results of the 17 experimental film discussion groups conducted by Extension in cooperation with the National 4-H Club Foundation last winter have important implications for extension work with young men and women. The enthusiasm with which the method used was received indicates a need for us to give more attention to the preparation of program materials which young people may select and use in conducting their own meetings with very little other professional assistance. Another important indication is the desirability of holding a concentrated series of meetings on related topics during the winter months. The turnover in membership for most young adult groups is so rapid that educational programs conducted on a monthly basis are relatively ineffective. A brief summary of the findings and recommendation of this experiment is being mailed to you in the near future.

The project is being continued this year under the direction of W. W. ("Andy") Eure, of the 4-H Club Foundation staff. Those desiring to cooperate in this discussion program should contact him.

YOUTH DISCUSSION ON TELEVISION

This is the title of a helpful booklet about youth discussion telecasts, issued by the Junior Town Meeting League. You may obtain copies by writing to them at 356 Washington Street, Middletown, Conn.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

In about a month 4-H Club members, leaders, friends of 4-H, and extension workers will be converging on Chicago for National 4-H Club Congress. The "National Committee" together with committees of extension workers - county, State, and Federal - and donor representatives are leaving no stone unturned to make this a never-to-be-forgotten event for winners in more than a score of 4-H Club project programs. Plans for radio, television, and other information channels indicate that Club Congress will be in the Nation's spotlight.

From November 9 to 17 a committee representing State 4-H Club leaders will be in Chicago selecting regional and national awards winners from among entries submitted by all the States and Territories.

Committee members for this year are:

Mary Woodward, Michigan
Glenn Bussot, Kansas
Bob Clough, Missouri
Glenn Baird, Utah
Gladys Oller, Wyoming
Paul Maloney, Nevada

Sam Gwinn, Delaware
Violet Higbee, Rhode Island
(To be named), West Virginia
Ann Barr, Alabama
E. B. Jenkins, Tennessee
Blanche Goad, Mississippi
George Foster, USDA, Chairman

The plan of operation as established by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy provides that each State shall be represented on the committee about once every 4 years.

Congratulations to Georgia. A resolution passed by the Georgia House of Representatives pays tribute to 14 national achievement winners, to local 4-H Club leaders, to parents, and to the Extension staff.

New York has issued an interesting new 4-H Club promotional leaflet. We liked Dave Fale's comment that "Even though we have a good product it is still necessary to advertise it."

We are also enthusiastic about the Guide for Home Improvement Leaders, which will soon go to press, under the joint authorship of Miss Tena Bishop, assistant State club leader of Massachusetts, and Miss Ruth Jamison, home furnishings specialist of Virginia.

Wisconsin welcomed J. Mitchell Mackey as assistant State club leader, with a November 1 appointment. Another fairly recent appointment on the same State staff is James H. Copp, who has the title of 4-H Club agent at large with assignment as coordinator of studies. Incidentally, we note that Robert Clark now has the title of assistant director of extension (4-H Club programs). Congratulations, Bob!

Martin Kasperson rejoins the State 4-H Club staff in South Dakota as State 4-H Club agent.

Esther Rugland has joined the Montana State staff as associate State 4-H Club leader.

James A. Duncan has been appointed older youth specialist on the West Virginia State staff.

Sincerely yours,

E W Aiton

E. W. Aiton, Leader
Division of 4-H Clubs and YMW Programs

C C Lang

C. C. Lang
Associate Leader

George Foster

George Foster
Associate Leader

W. E. Schmidt

W. E. Schmidt
Associate Leader

Fern Shipley

Fern Shipley
Associate Leader

Enclosures.

FOR STATE 4-H CLUB LEADERS FOR REPLYING TO QUESTION IN "IDEAS"

Recognition for First Year 4-H Leaders:

Our State has the following official plan for recognizing 4-H volunteer local leaders:

We do not have an official State plan but feel the need for one. Yes.
 No.

In addition to State recognition, we (do) (do not) feel that some type of national recognition is desirable. Explain briefly.

Return to E. W. Aiton by November 15, 1953.

